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Edexcel

Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel AS Level  
In Politics (8PL0) Paper 02

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## 8PL0/02 – PE Report

### Q1a

This question was the most popular in section A. Stronger responses focused specifically on powers and demonstrated accurate knowledge and understanding when describing these. As marks are only available for AO1, responses could not receive credit for evaluation. Weaker responses described the functions of the House of Commons without relating these to powers, or contained inaccuracies.

### Q1b

This question was less popular than the other question in this section. Stronger responses showed accurate knowledge and understanding when describing what is meant by the rule of law. Weaker responses wrote about the law in general or the need to obey the law, without a specific focus on the 'rule of law'. Marks are only available for AO1 so any evaluation of whether or not the rule of law applies in practice was not creditable.

### Q2

The vast majority of candidates used the source to form the basis of their answers with only a very small minority ignoring the source and using their own general knowledge. There were also a very few instances of candidates copying out sections of the source or paraphrasing sections, without relating this to the question.

Stronger responses successfully used the source to explain several advantages of defining the role and powers of the Prime Minister in statute, illustrating this with relevant examples.

### Q3

It is pleasing to see that centres have generally prepared candidates well for this question. The best responses considered similarities as well as differences between the arguments in the two sources. They evaluated the relative strength of the arguments contained in each source, often as they went along, and reached an overall judgement on whether or not the UK should retain an uncodified constitution.

Centres should build on this good work and continue to encourage candidates to practice this type of question during their course so that they are more able to signpost and identify the differences and similarities between the sources.

Candidates are not asked to evaluate the provenance of the two sources and there were fewer examples of this than last year.

### Q4a

This was the more popular question in this section. Stronger responses followed the rubric in the question, referring to both the European Union and devolution, contained balance and drew on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

Q4b

This was a less popular question in this section. Stronger responses followed the rubric in the question, referring to both judicial independence and judicial review, providing balance and drawing on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

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